

Town of Los Gatos General Plan

USE AND PURPOSE OF THE GENERAL PLAN

The role of each community's general plan is to act as a constitution for development, the foundation upon which all land use decisions are to be based. Land use decisions encompass not only zoning, but circulation, design, open space and other factors. The plan is a policy document to assist and guide local decision makers. To be considered consistent with the General Plan, a project must not only be consistent with the Land Use Plan, it must also further the goals of all elements of the General Plan and meet the intent of its policies.

The Town of Los Gatos is always evolving with new opportunities to mold the future character of the Town, while preserving the best of its past and present. The Los Gatos General Plan addresses the issues that are important to consider in the ongoing development of our community. The plan explains how our natural resources and physical features are to be maintained and enhanced, and directs how we incorporate them into in-fill projects, new projects and our community investments. The General Plan also identifies land uses and their distribution.

The General Plan is used by the Town Council and Planning Commission to evaluate land use changes, make funding and budget recommendations and decisions, and to evaluate specific development proposals. Town staff uses the Plan to regulate building and development and to make recommendations on projects to the Planning Commission and Town Council. The Plan is also used by residents, neighborhood groups and developers to understand the Town's long-range plans and to evaluate specific development proposals.

A General Plan is a legal document that must meet specific State requirements for content. The Los Gatos General Plan meets or exceeds the requirements of the California Government Code. The Plan is an integrated, internally consistent statement of the official land use policy for the Town of Los Gatos and the Town's Sphere of Influence (SOI). The Plan addresses each issue prescribed by State law as it applies to Los Gatos. The Plan contains land use and circulation maps. It also contains text that identifies goals, sets forth policies and standards, and identifies implementation strategies.

Goals are ultimate purposes expressing community values toward which the Town will direct effort. Policies are statements of principle or guiding action that imply a clear commitment and a direction that the Town elects to follow in order to meet its goals and objectives. Implementing strategies are programs, procedures, strategies or techniques carried out in response to adopted policy to achieve a specific goal or objective.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires all state and local government agencies to consider the environmental consequences of projects over which they have discretionary

authority. The State CEQA Statutes Section 21065 defines a project as “an activity which may cause either a direct physical change in the environment, or a reasonably foreseeable indirect physical change in the environment”. Therefore, the Town of Los Gatos, as the lead agency, was required to prepare and certify an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the General Plan 2000.

The General Plan 2000 EIR is a public document that assesses the overall environmental effects of the General Plan 2000 at a program level of detail and indicates ways to reduce or avoid possible environmental damage. The Program EIR generally analyzes the broad environmental effects of the General Plan 2000, and provides a baseline, or “first tier,” against which future projects implemented under General Plan 2000 build-out are evaluated. Where subsequent CEQA documentation is required for a future project under General Plan 2000 build-out, the Town must implement the applicable mitigation measures developed in the Program EIR, and focus its analysis on site-specific issues that can not otherwise be addressed at a program or policy level of analysis.

The EIR is intended to be used as a companion document with the General Plan 2000. Mitigation measures identified in the EIR have been included as policies or implementing strategies in the General Plan 2000. Additional mitigation measures not included in the General Plan 2000 are also identified in the EIR (refer to Section 2 of the EIR, which provides a composite list of all environmental mitigation measures for the General Plan 2000).

Town of Los Gatos Directory

Town Administrative Offices

Town of Los Gatos
110 E. Main Street
Los Gatos, CA 95030
www.losgatosca.gov

Town Manager's Office
408.354.6832
manager@losgatosca.gov

Town Finance Division
408.354.6832
finance@losgatosca.gov

Town Attorney's Office
408.354.6880
attorney@losgatosca.gov

Clerk Department
408.354.6834
clerk@losgatosca.gov

Accounts Payable & Purchasing

Town of Los Gatos Finance Division
110 E. Main Street
408.354.6832
Accounts Payable Hotline
408.354.6839
finance@losgatosca.gov

Business Licenses

Town of Los Gatos Finance Division
110 E. Main Street
408.399.5704
finance@losgatosca.gov

Community Services Department

208 E. Main Street
408.354.6820
community@losgatosca.gov

Engineering

Parks and Public Works Department

41 Miles Avenue

408.395.2859

parks@town.losgatosca.gov

Town of Los Gatos Housing Conservation Program

208 E. Main Street

408.354.6820

www.losgatosca.gov

Human Resources

Town of Los Gatos Human Resources Division

110 E. Main Street

408.399.5718

Job Hotline: 408.354.6838

personnel@losgatosca.gov

Library

110 E. Main Street

408.354.6891

library@losgatosca.gov

Mayor and Town Council

Office of the Mayor and Town Council

110 E. Main Street

408.354.6801

manager@losgatosca.gov

Parks

Parks and Public Works Department

41 Miles Avenue

408.399.5770

parks@losgatosca.gov

Planning

110 E. Main Street

Community Development Department - 408.354.6872

planning@losgatosca.gov

Police

Police Department

110 E. Main Street - 408.354.8600

Emergency 9-1-1

police@losgatosca.gov

Public Works

Parks and Public Works Department

41 Miles Avenue

408.399.5770

parks@losgatosca.gov

Senior Center

208 E. Main Street

408.354.1514

community@losgatosca.gov